



Washington State Department of **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting
October 4, 2022

Regional Coalition & Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) Updates

Regional Coalition Update

Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast

For more information, please contact: Colleen Condon, colleen@lilaccityelc.com

INWELA is hosting a fundraising event for Washington Communities for Children on September 30th to conclude the Beyond Connections Conference.

Our Regional Lead Jill Johnson is transitioning out of her role; Katie Maisch will be the interim lead as we work to reassign roles.

Investing in Children Coalition: Central

For more information, please contact: Lindsay Bowsell, lindsayb@yakimavalleycf.org or Marina Medrano, marinam@yakimavalleycf.org

The Investing in Children Coalition will be hosting an Early Learning Conference on Saturday, October 15th from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Heritage University. This conference is for anyone working in the early learning field in Central WA. The general topics that this conference will focus on are:

- Equity & Inclusion
- Mental & Behavioral Health
- Family Engagement
- Policy & Advocacy

Some trainings will be held in English and others in Spanish, but interpretation will be available. STAR Credits and Clock Hours will be available. There will also be early learning organizations tabling at the event, FREE lunch, and opportunities to network. Registration for this conference has a cost of \$60.

For those interested in attending, please [fill out this form](#) to sign-up for updates and announcements about the conference.

Regional Coalition Update

King County

For more information, please contact: Laurie Bohm, bohml@childcare.org

The King County Early Learning Coalition (KCELC) will be hosting a Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) Social Gathering on Friday, September 30th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm PST at Child Care Resources, Kent Office. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the coalition, connect with others in early learning, and enjoy food while attending the virtual closing of the WCFC Beyond Connections Conference. You do not need to be an attendee of the conference to participate; we welcome all members to come and meet others who are invested in early learning.

North Central

For more information please contact: Nancy Spurgeon, nspurgeon49@gmail.com

No updates to share at this time.

Northwest

For more information please contact: Linden Obel, linden@nwelcoalition.org

No updates to share at this time.

Peninsula Early Learning Coalition

For more information, please contact: Marlaina Simmons, marlaina.pecc@gmail.com and Elisia Anderson, elisiaf_fstep@olypen.com

Marlaina Simmons will now serve as Policy and Advocacy lead for PECC.

PECC is partnering with Olympic Communities of health to plan and implement an upcoming Regional Care Coordinator Convening on September 22nd. The purpose of this convening is to bring together the regional health and human services workforce that connects people with resources they need to lead healthy lives. Bringing the on-the-ground workforce together will empower a larger community of care across Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap counties.

PECC is also sponsoring a training on October 4th through the Clallam Resilience Project with Dr. Christina Bethell titles "The New Science of Thriving: Prioritizing Possibilities for Child, Family and Community Flourishing."

Regional Coalition Update

Pierce County Early Childhood Network

For more information please contact: McKinley McPheeters, mckinleym@first5fundamentals.org

Registration is now open for Champions for Children event November 8th,
2022: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/3ZeTqXF_rlXm021a2mqeeA?utm_campaign=CFC+2022

We are looking for volunteers to help create a preschool Math Curriculum that combines math and social-emotional learning for 3-5 year old children. Email McKinley at mckinleym@first5fundamentals.org. We will meet on Zoom for one hour approx. 4 times in October-November to develop the curriculum!

Southeast

For more information, please contact: Matt Bona, mbona@esd123.org

Walla Walla ELC: WWELC held an ELC advisory team meeting on August 2nd to share about the development of childcare directory and online data base. I was able to connect with Lark Kesterke from Within Reach to learn more about help me grow and how we can connect to it in the Walla Walla area. WWELC was also able to connect to the SW Washington Early Learning Coalition and learn more about their new childcare recruitment initiative.

Asotin-Clarkston ELC: ASELC is partnering with their Asotin County Library - 1000 books for kids. The Asotin-Clarkston schools are doing a service project collecting books for kids under 5, so they can get a jump on reading.

80 students, age 3–5-year old's, took part in pre-school screenings and schools were able to meet with the families and caregivers.

Walla Walla ELC: After a two-year absence the Walla Walla ELC will hold their Fall Dinner and Dialogue on Tuesday, October 11. The program will run from 5:30-7:30 PM in the Marcus Whitman Hotel Ballroom in Walla Walla. Dinner and Dialogue is an opportunity for local professionals in the early learning and early elementary fields to build relationships and learn together.

Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

For more information please contact: Debbie Ham, Debbie.ham@selfwa.org

We are hosting the Clark County Child Care Roundtable Event on Sept 26. We have visitors from around the state as well as locally. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase the SW Washington Child Care Partnership.

In less than a year we've registered over 5000 children birth – five in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. We are so grateful for the state funding available to help offset the costs for local affiliates.

Regional Coalition Update

Visions for Early Learning, West Central

For more information, please contact: Sheila Kavanaugh, kavconsulting231@gmail.com

No updates to share at this time.

WCFC Updates – For more information please contact: info@washingtoncfc.org

WCFC State Updates

For more information please contact: Rachel Hall, WCFC State Lead,
rachelh@first5fundamentals.org

Beyond Connection: Inaugural WCFC Early Childhood Conference (September 28 – 30)

Join us for Beyond Connection, the first-ever WCFC Conference. During this 3-day virtual event, choose from more than 15 sessions that will connect you to innovative ideas that are impacting children and families across Washington. The conference will redefine what it means to be an expert by spotlighting the champions that live and work among and alongside us.

Topics sessions align with the six WCFC Learning Networks: Policy & Advocacy, Health Provider Voice, Family Voice, Equity, Resource Navigation & Access, and Data. The conference is designed for anyone with a passion for supporting children and families, including educators, child care providers, public health experts, elected officials, social workers, child welfare advocates, pediatricians, nurses, parents and caregivers, and others!

Visit the WCFC website for more information:

<https://www.washingtoncfc.org/beyond-connection>

WCFC Network Infrastructure Updates

The WCFC Regional Leads voted to approve the addition of a Child Care Voice Learning Network to the statewide infrastructure. Together with WCFC reps, childcare providers, CCA coaches, and other stakeholders, the Child Care Voice Learning Network is intended to create a safe and engaging environment for childcare providers.

Additionally, the WCFC network warmly welcomed some new individuals to the statewide leadership. The North Central Early Learning Coalition experienced a transition in their Leadership. The Region is now co-lead by Kim Hatfield from Catholic Charities and Janelle Bersch from the North Central ESD. The King County Early Learning Coalition is also taking a co-lead approach, and welcome Alexis Joshua from Child Care Resources to their team.

Pathwaves WA Policy Fellowship

WCFC was selected as a placement site for the [Pathwaves WA](#) Policy Fellowship program. We are very excited to announce that Maya Ewings is the new WCFC Policy Fellow! Maya will join the WCFC Network officially in October.

WA State Anchor Partner – Vroom

WCFC was awarded a 3-year grant by the Bezos Family Foundation to become the Washington State Anchor Partner for Vroom. WCFC will utilize our existing infrastructure to promote Vroom to health providers and families in hard-to-reach communities. More information including outreach strategies and target communities available in the coming months.

WCFC Learning Networks – Join us!

There are six statewide Washington Communities for Children Learning Networks. The purpose of these teams are to foster learning and connections across the state, with particular focus in each of the component areas below. Participation is open to anyone, including state and local partners who are interested in shared learning and activities. For meeting schedules, and to get in touch with Learning Network leads, please visit our website at washingtoncfc.org/learning-networks.

- Data
- Equity
- Family Voice
- Health Provider Voice
- Policy & Advocacy
- Resource Navigation & Access